

INDIVIDUAL WORK.—While considering what we can best do together, let none neglect what he can do by himself. Our work is not carrying elections, changing constitutions, making laws, but arousing tho't. Ev'ryone, irrespectiv of sex, age, abilitis or condition can do something—littl or much. A conversation, a suggestion, a question—giv a tract, loan a book, send a paper and even in one almost devoid of influence, strike a spark that, passing from mind to mind, may at last burst forth in wide illumination.—Look out for peopl with whom yu come in contact, or whom yu can reach, as by a letter, by a tract, or by any other way. Evry expression in favor of our doctriins has its weight. If it accomplish nothing els, it helps giv them respectability of numbers, and that is needed to compel atention of many minds closed to most obvius truth so long as they think its adherents few.—*N. Y. Standard.*

FILIP.—*Notes & Queries* asks "why the Spanish spel Philip *Felipe*?" We wud like to no why they hav '*Felipe*' insted of '*Fil*.' They use *f* for *ph* generally, a change bro't about with other changes by reform in Sp. orthog. 60 to 80 years ago. Portugal stil adheres to *ph* for *f*—Philippe—as stupidly as we. In Italian it is Filippo. Use of *ph* for *f* never prevaild in Italian. It began to gro in pre-Italian, or Latin, days but died out. About the first cent. pedantic Greeklings, not accepting Latin *r* as equivalent to Greek *f* (named *fi*) tho not of quite same shape, began to "sho off" by using *ph*, a way of representing this sound by the Greeks before they aded the new leter *fi* to their alfabet. That this had spred a littl in popular favor is probabl, as in some scribbling on walls of Pompeii that we hav seen, necessarily ritn in or before first cent., *ph* is found for *f*. Suthern Italy was calld Magna Grecia, as settld by Greek colonis. Tho found there it is not found in clasic Latin. Filip means lover (*filos*) of the hors (*hippos*) which explains *f*, singl *l*, and dubl *ph* of Italian. It is remarkabl how in Italian names, speld by them with *f* we insist ofn on the retrograde change to *ph*. Thus we spel their great painter as Raphael while on his tomb in the Pantheon at Rome and throuth Italian literature it is ever speld with *f*.

INTERNATIONALITY.—We hav several times herd it exprest how wel it wud be to hav a comon alfabet to denote European tungs, especially Ger., French, and Eng. Such a one wil allow comparison of sounds aproximately the same. The Paris *Teacher* has been for nearly 3 years giving sampls of Eng., Ger., Fr., Italian, Swedish and Danish, but with alfabets not entirely uniform. With 1889, this has been changed, the same alfabet being used, except for 3

nasalized vowels for which typografic forms (*faute de caracteres*) ar not yet redy. We consider it useful to compare pronunciation and thus reach Comparativ Orthoepy. With the alfabet itself, apart from this use, we ar not in love. Tho question it sets about solving is, *to revise and enlarge the Roman Alfabet* consistently, so far as may be, with curent use of leters by nations now using the unrevised alfabet. In its pages, then, the chief European tungs ar givn with accuracy absolutely fonetic, and not in 'trial corners' either but throuth its entire pages. It allows correspondents to use what pronunciation they prefer in each tung which makes its pages material for study by evry one having interest in (even one, as Eng., or more); modern languages. In English its orthoepy is too colloquial to our notion, yet givs fair average orthoepy for our tung with close *e* and *o* considered difthongs, (ei, ou). The best way to get it is to become a member of Fonetic Teachers' Association, of which hed-quarters ar at 6 Rue Labordere, Neuilli-sur-Seine, France. Ordinary members pay 2 francs a year and get a copy monthly free. Activ members pay 5 francs (\$1) and get 3 copis. Subscriptions may be sent to us.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GERMAN 'SHORT' I.

SIR,—At recent meeting of Mod. Lang. Asocia'n, Mr VanderSmissem's statement that 'short' i is pronounced alike in Ger. and Eng. was questiond. His position is upheld by Sievers [pronounce, Zefors] who, in his '*Grundzüge der Phonetik*' 3d ed., distinguishes open i of *Fisch*, 42 high-front-wide, from close i of *ihm*, *sie*, 41 high-front-narrow, tho not here speaking of quantity. Further, in the 'vocalabelle', p. 95, he givs as exampls of the same 'high-front-wide' both Eng. *bit*, *pity*, and Ger. *Fisch*. Tru, this is Bell's table: but Sievers wud not noingly propagate error.

Berlin, Ont.

J. W. CONNOR.

trial corner.]

ADOPTS FINAL FORMS.

SIR,—I take the opportunity to say that the *Herald* iz the best edited spelling reform journal that haz ever appeared in America. I should hav become a subscriber long ago, but I am ded opposed to new letters, and will not let my name go on subscription list of eni periodical advocating them. (My substitute iz diacritics, and these to be used in practice only in words which there iz danger of confounding.) At present, in private correspondence, I spel phonetically those words az to whose *final forms* there is no dispute.

New York.

F. A. FERNALD.